

Lake Sharpe

Big Bend Dam

Boating and Recreation Guide



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2004

Photos by
South Dakota Tourism and
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Omaha District

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Emergency and Information Contacts

DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES!

or

CONTACT the County Sheriff's Department

Brule	(605) 734-6511	Hyde	(605) 852-2513
Buffalo	(605) 293-3231	Lyman	(605) 869-2267
Hughes	(605) 773-7470	Stanley	(605) 223-2291

For further information, *please contact:*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Big Bend Project
(605) 245-2255

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil>

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
(605) 245-2221

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
(605) 473-5561

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
(605) 773-3485

<http://www.sdgfp.info/Index.htm>

For maps or information on traveling
along the Missouri River, *please contact:*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nationwide Campground Reservations
Toll-free 1-877-444-6777

Missouri National Recreational River
(402) 667-2550
<http://www.nps.gov/mnrr/>

Missouri River Information Center
Toll-free 1-866-285-3219
http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/Lake_Proj/infocenter.html

Welcome to Big Bend Dam and Lake Sharpe! Since the completion of Big Bend Dam in July 1964, Lake Sharpe's 80,000 acres of land and water has provided many benefits, including hydropower production, irrigation, fish and wildlife habitat, and many recreational opportunities. Fantastic walleye fishing is certainly what draws many people to this beautiful reservoir in the heart of South Dakota's "Indian Country."

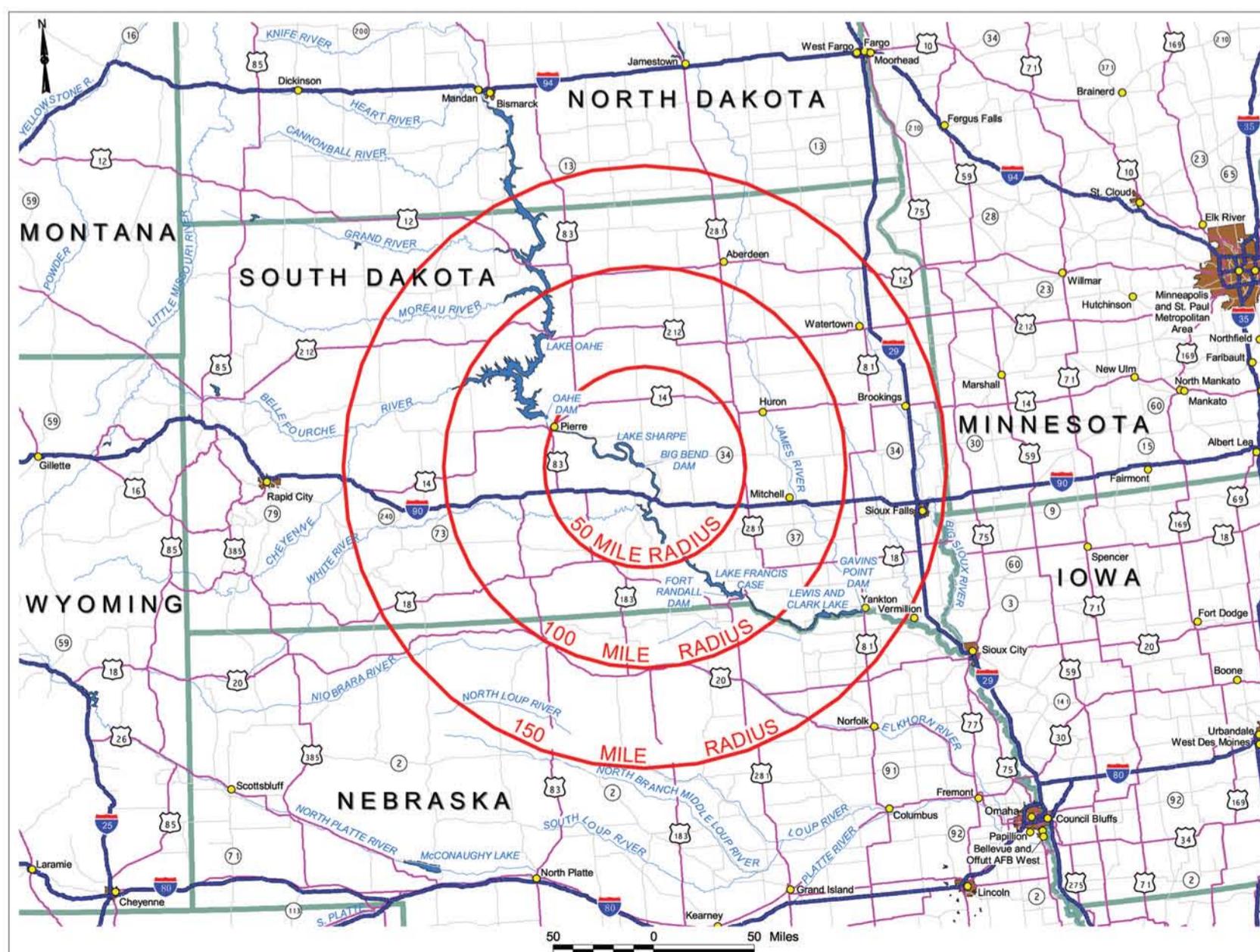
This Lake Sharpe Boating and Recreation Guide is a comprehensive resource for those who want more detailed information than provided by the standard project brochure. Whether you plan to try the fabled walleye fishing, or are simply pleasure boating, we hope that this guide assists you in having a better, and safer, time at the lake. All Lake Sharpe area activities however, are not on the water. Take time to explore area landmarks and sites to learn more about the area's rich Native American culture and history.

Much of this guide is dedicated to your safety...water safety, severe weather information, and so forth. Remember to observe all of these safety reminders, so your visit, and the visits of others, will be much more pleasant and enjoyable.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any additional information or if we may be of further assistance.

Operations Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Big Bend Project
HC 69, Box 74
Chamberlain, South Dakota 57325
(605) 245-2255
dll-cenwo-bigbend@usace.army.mil
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil>

Lake Sharpe - Location and Distance Map



- Public use of project land and water is subject to the rules and regulations published in Chapter III, Part 327, Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of which may be obtained at the Big Bend Project Office and/or Powerhouse located near Fort Thompson, South Dakota. Detailed information regarding recreation areas and facilities may also be obtained from these offices.
- Don't be a litterbug. Use the refuse cans provided and help keep the areas clean for others who wish to enjoy the lake and the recreation facilities. Many areas along the lake that are used by the public have no refuse facilities. If you plan to visit one of these remote areas, take your refuse with you – if you pack it in, pack it out.
- The average lake level shown is elevation 1420 mean sea level (msl). Lake Sharpe is held at a nearly constant elevation of 1420 due to the controlled water releases from Lake Oahe upstream of Lake Sharpe. The lake level may fluctuate up to two feet during the course of a week in order to satisfy peak power generation.
- Due to fluctuations in lake elevations, submerged hazards may be encountered. Boat operators should exercise extreme caution at all times. The downstream Powerplant Tailrace is a water release area from Lake Sharpe and is potentially dangerous to boaters. Observe the posted warning signs and follow directions.
- Motor vehicle use is restricted to developed roads on project land.
- Access to many undeveloped areas along the lake is limited and trails to these areas may pass through private or tribal property. Recreationists must contact adjacent land owners or tribal authorities before crossing private land.
- During adverse weather, possible in all seasons, unsurfaced roads can become impassable and users should listen to weather reports and watch the weather to avoid becoming stuck and stranded in a remote area. The radio stations listed below, as well as those farther from the project, periodically give weather information that can be helpful to people using the project. These stations also broadcast storm watches and warnings. A portable radio should be included with a recreationist's equipment.

Area AM Radio Stations

Area FM Radio Stations

KOKK 1210 AM Huron, SD	KGFX 1060 AM Pierre, SD	KMIT 105.9 FM Mitchell, SD	KNBZ 97.7 FM Redfield, SD
KIJV 1340 AM Huron, SD	KQKD 1380 AM Redfield, SD	KQRN 107.3 FM Mitchell, SD	KPLO 94.5 FM Reliance, SD
KORN 1490 AM Mitchell, SD	KWYR 1260 AM Winner, SD	KLXS 95.3 FM Pierre, SD	KWYR 93.7 FM Winner, SD

A continuous local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather forecast is also available in the lake area at the following radio frequencies:

Huron, SD - 162.550 MHz	Philip, SD - 162.450 MHz	Reliance, SD - 162.425 MHz
Mitchell, SD - 162.450 MHz	Pierre, SD - 162.400 MHz	White River, SD - 162.550 MHz

- Swimming is permitted in the lake except in those areas closed by posting of appropriate signs. Designated swimming beaches are not fully developed and swimming is done at the individual's risk. Adults should supervise child swimmers at all times. All swimmers should be mindful of abrupt drop-offs and changing bottom characteristics.
- Excavation and removal of archaeological and historical materials is prohibited by Federal law.
- Hunting and fishing is allowed on Lake Sharpe and project land, unless posted otherwise, in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and in some instances, the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. These regulations may change annually, so hunters and fishermen are advised to review current regulations before engaging in these forms of recreation.
- Occupancy of any campsite is limited to 14 consecutive days.

A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch

This means conditions are favorable for the development of a severe thunderstorm or a tornado.

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning

This means a severe thunderstorm has actually formed and is threatening the warned area. In a severe thunderstorm you can expect sudden wind reversals, a sharp rise in wind speed, a drop in temperatures, heavy rain, hail, and lightning.

A Tornado Warning

This means a tornado has been sighted or detected on radar in the warned area and that there is immediate danger. You should seek immediate shelter.

Here's What To Do When You Hear a Tornado Warning

- *In Motor Homes, Camping Trailers or Mobile Homes:*
Get out immediately and seek the best available shelter. Lie flat in a ditch or ravine and shield your head with your arms.
- *In Your Car or Truck:*
If time permits, move at a right angle to the path of the tornado. Otherwise, leave the vehicle and seek shelter in a nearby ditch or ravine, under a bridge, or in a culvert.
- *Outdoors:*
If outdoors, with no shelter available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or ravine, and shield head with arms.
- *In a Boat:*
Travel to the closest shore as quickly as possible. Get out of the boat, lie flat in a nearby ravine or valley, and shield head with arms.
- *In a Park or Recreation Area:*
Due to the large number of people who visit park areas throughout the summer months, park personnel may not be able to issue storm warnings to individuals camping or using the park for the day. Park rangers and deputy sheriffs will make every effort to inform visitors of the threatening weather situations. Tune your radio or TV to a local station, or your weather radio frequency, to monitor weather conditions if a storm seems imminent.

Recreation areas and state park areas have no designated shelters for use in severe weather. Some protection may be afforded by crouching near the central interior walls of restroom and shower buildings made of masonry or block construction.

However, regardless of the size of the park, these structures will not accommodate all visitors. Leaving the park area when severe weather threatens may be advisable, if time permits. Please consult a park ranger for further options of protection against the threat of severe weather.

General Tips

Lightning is a killer. If possible, get inside a large building, and keep away from electrical appliances when the storm is overhead. Outdoors, get away from and avoid open water, hilltops, open fields, beaches, isolated trees in open areas, wire fences, metal pipes or rails. Get off of, and away from, motorcycles and bicycles. If in a forest, seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. In open areas, go to a ravine or valley, but be alert for flash floods. If you are hopelessly isolated in a level field of prairie and feel your hair stand on end (indicating lightning is about to strike) drop to knees, and bend forward putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

Keep fresh batteries in your flashlight and portable radio at all times during the severe weather season. In addition, it is strongly advised that you have your radio tuned to one of the stations previously mentioned under the General Information section of this guide.

Swimming

- Never swim alone. Exhaustion, cramps or sudden illness can overcome the best of swimmers.
- Never swim when overheated.
- Practice staying afloat with clothes on. Many drownings occur as a result of falling from a boat or steep bank.
- Small children and non-swimmers should always wear a life jacket and be accompanied by good swimmers.

Skin and Scuba Diving

- Seek instructions from qualified divers before participating in the sport.
- Have a current medical checkup.
- Never dive by yourself.

Water Skiing

- Wear a life jacket.
- Watch the water ahead of you at all times.
- Have an extra person aboard to watch and assist the skier.
- Run parallel to shore and come in slowly when landing. Sit down if coming in too fast.
- Use proper hand signals to signal boat operator.
- Do not ski at night or in restricted areas.

Boating

- Do not overpower or overload your boat.
- Maintain all required equipment in good working condition. Check state and federal laws.
- The law requires Coast Guard approved life jackets. Be water wise and wear yours while afloat.
- If your boat capsizes or swamps, hang onto it. Do not try to swim to shore.
- Always stay alert for other boats, swimmers, fishermen, water skiers and partially submerged logs.
- Obey all buoy markers. They are for your personal safety.
- Fire is a serious boating hazard. Obey all fire safety rules when filling with gasoline.
- Stay ashore in threatening weather. If you are caught in foul weather:
 - Reduce speed and head into waves at a slight angle. Seat passengers on bottom of boat near centerline. Make for nearest safe shore and wait the weather out.
 - If engine fails, trail a sea anchor from bow. A minnow bucket, pair of pants with legs knotted, piece of cloth fashioned as a parachute will work.
- Equip your boat with a first aid kit, including a snakebite kit.
- Carry ample amounts of gas, enough for your personal needs and to aid others.
- Always inform another person of your boating intentions - where you are going and when you intend to return. This will be a possible means of rescue if trouble develops.
- If you are stranded on shore at night, signal for help by building a safe fire of driftwood or dead grass. Be sure you do not start a prairie fire while doing this.

General Assistance

- Further assistance may be obtained by contacting the agencies listed on the final page of this guide.

Reservoir Navigation Marker System

Approved by the U.S. Coast Guard

Know and Obey All Buoys and Markers

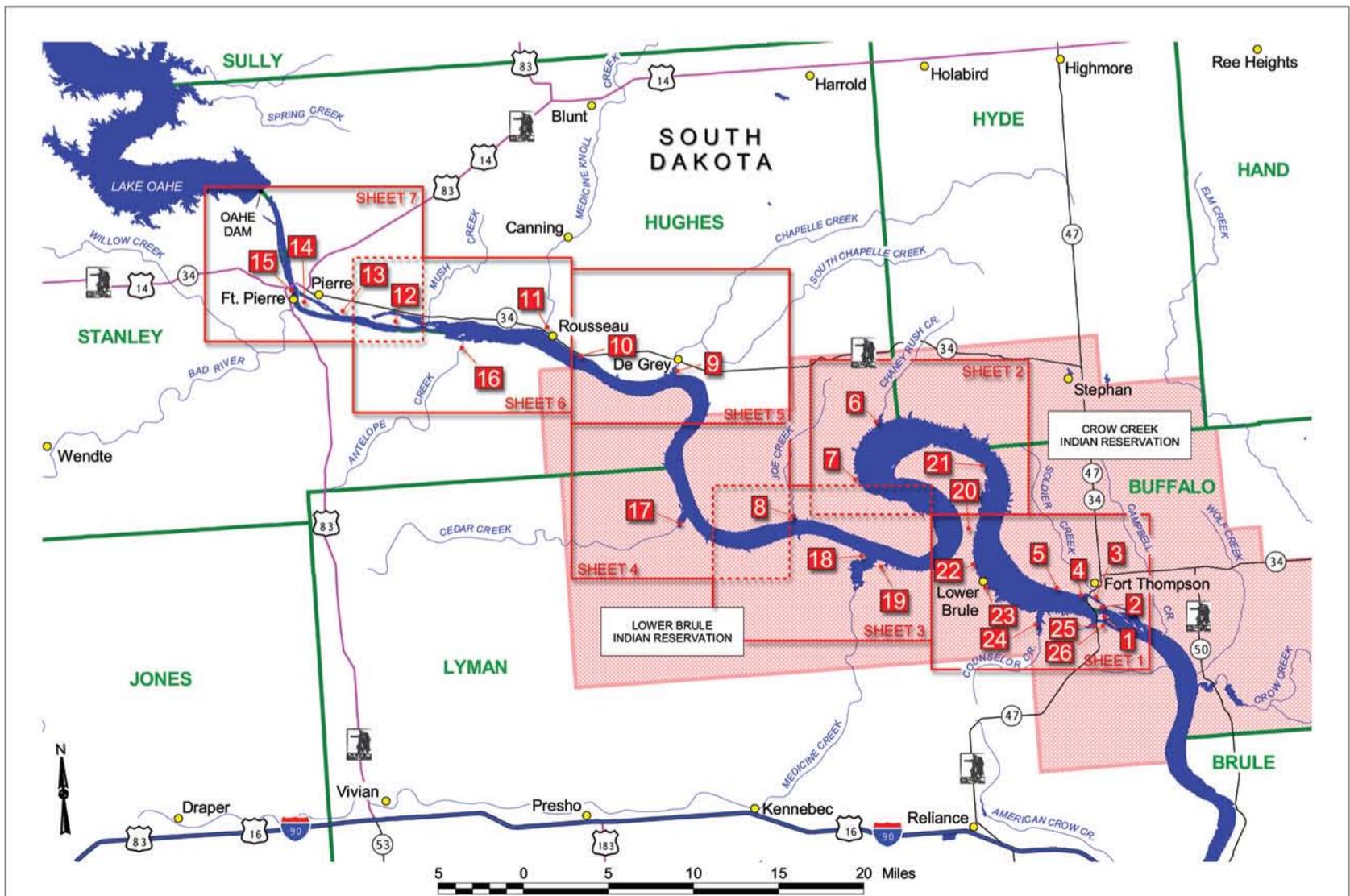


All federal lands at Lake Sharpe are governed by the regulations set forth in Title 36, Section 327. Copies of the "Rules and Regulations" are available at the project office and on bulletin boards on federal lands.

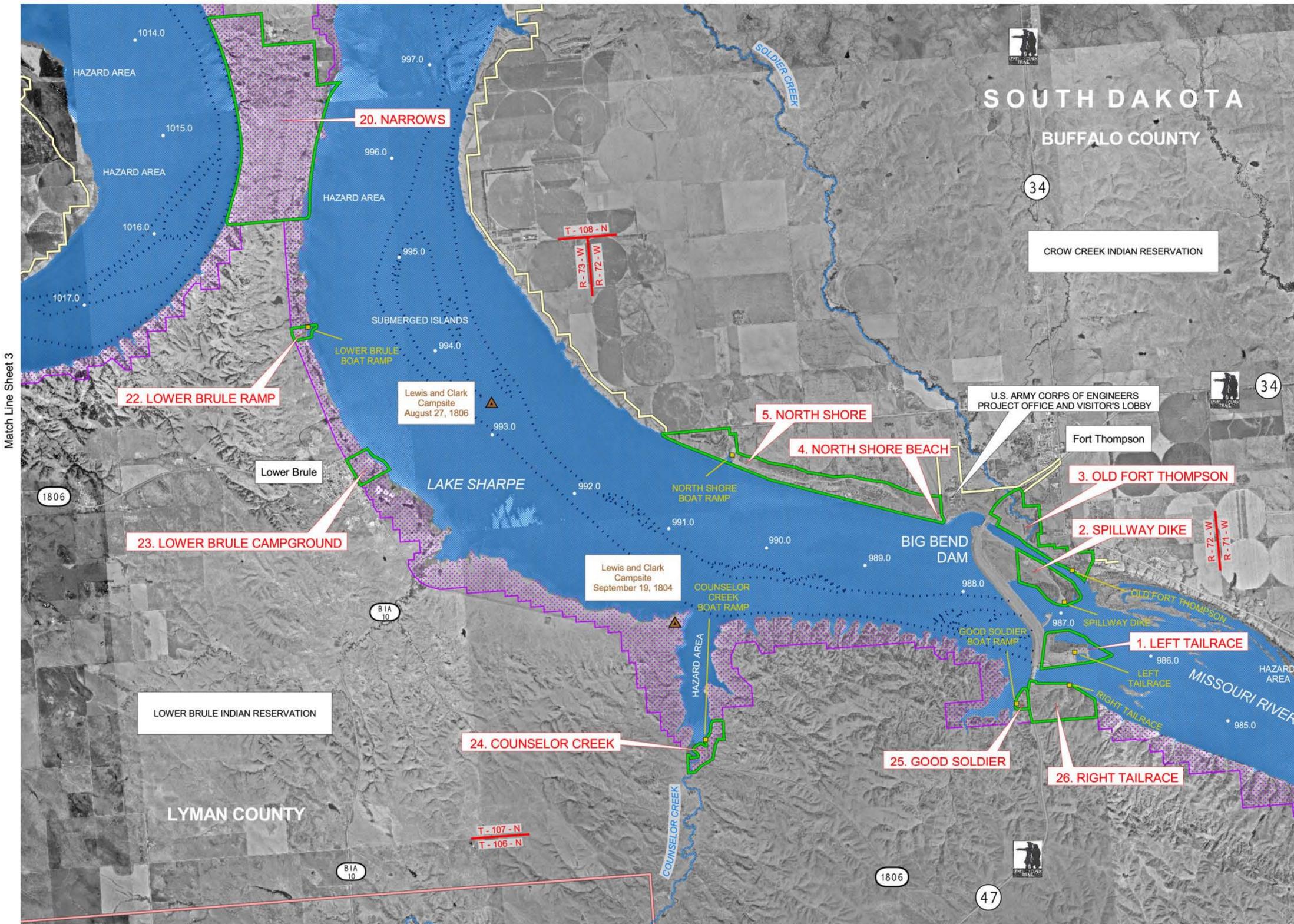
Public Recreation Facilities

	BOAT RAMP	PRIMITIVE CAMPING	DEVELOPED CAMPING	ELECTRIC CAMPING	DRINKING WATER	SHOWERS	RESTROOMS	RESTROOMS (FLUSH)	PICNIC SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	PLAYGROUND	DUMP STATION	FISH CLEANING STATION	TELEPHONE	MARINA	NATURE TRAIL	MANAGING AGENCY
1 LEFT TAILRACE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	CORPS OF ENGINEERS
2 SPILLWAY DIKE	●						●	●									CORPS OF ENGINEERS
3 OLD FORT THOMPSON	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●							CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4 NORTH SHORE BEACH					●	●	●	●	●	●			●				CORPS OF ENGINEERS
5 NORTH SHORE	●				●		●	●				●					CORPS OF ENGINEERS
6 NORTH BEND	●						●										S.D.G.F.P.
7 WEST BEND	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	S.D.G.F.P.
8 JOE CREEK	●	●					●	●	●								S.D.G.F.P.
9 DeGREY	●						●										S.D.G.F.P.
10 FORT GEORGE	●						●										S.D.G.F.P.
11 ROUSSEAU OVERLOOK							●	●									S.D. DOT
12 FARM ISLAND	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	S.D.G.F.P.
13 PIERRE WATERFRONT	●				●		●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	CITY OF PIERRE
14 LaFRAMBOISE ISLAND					●		●	●	●							●	S.D.G.F.P.
15 FORT PIERRE WATERFRONT																●	CITY OF FORT PIERRE
16 ANTELOPE CREEK	●																S.D.G.F.P.
17 CEDAR CREEK	●																LBST
18 NORTH IRON NATION	●	●					●	●	●		●						LBST
19 SOUTH IRON NATION	●	●					●	●	●		●						LBST
20 NARROWS															●		LBST
21 JIGGS																	LBST
22 LOWER BRULE RAMP	●																LBST
23 LOWER BRULE CAMPGROUND		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	LBST
24 COUNSELOR CREEK	●																LBST
25 GOOD SOLDIER	●						●	●	●	●							CORPS OF ENGINEERS
26 RIGHT TAILRACE	●	●			●		●	●	●	●		●					CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Lake Sharpe - Sheet Index Map



Match Line Sheet 2



US Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

- Counselor Creek: 44° 01' 58" N 99° 30' 44" W
- Good Soldier: 44° 02' 05" N 99° 26' 59" W
- Left Tailrace: 44° 02' 29" N 99° 26' 14" W
- Lower Brule: 44° 05' 46" N 99° 35' 08" W
- North Shore: 44° 04' 24" N 99° 30' 10" W
- Old Fort Thompson: 44° 03' 11" N 99° 26' 12" W
- Right Tailrace: 44° 02' 12" N 99° 26' 20" W
- Spillway Dike: 44° 02' 55" N 99° 26' 19" W

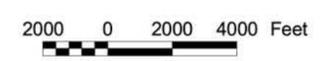
- River Mile
- Boat Ramp
- ▲ Lewis and Clark Campsite
- River Channel
- U.S. Government Boundary
- Recreational Boundary
- Reservation Boundary
- Township and Range
- ▨ B.I.A. Administered Lands



Lake Sharpe
South Dakota

U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha
Corps of Engineers Omaha, Nebraska
Operations/Regulatory GIS Unit

Sheet 1 of 7
Orthophoto Year: 1991 - 1998



SOUTH DAKOTA
HUGHES COUNTY

HYDE COUNTY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

North Bend:
44° 13' 33" N 99° 41' 01" W
West Bend:
44° 10' 25" N 99° 42' 55" W

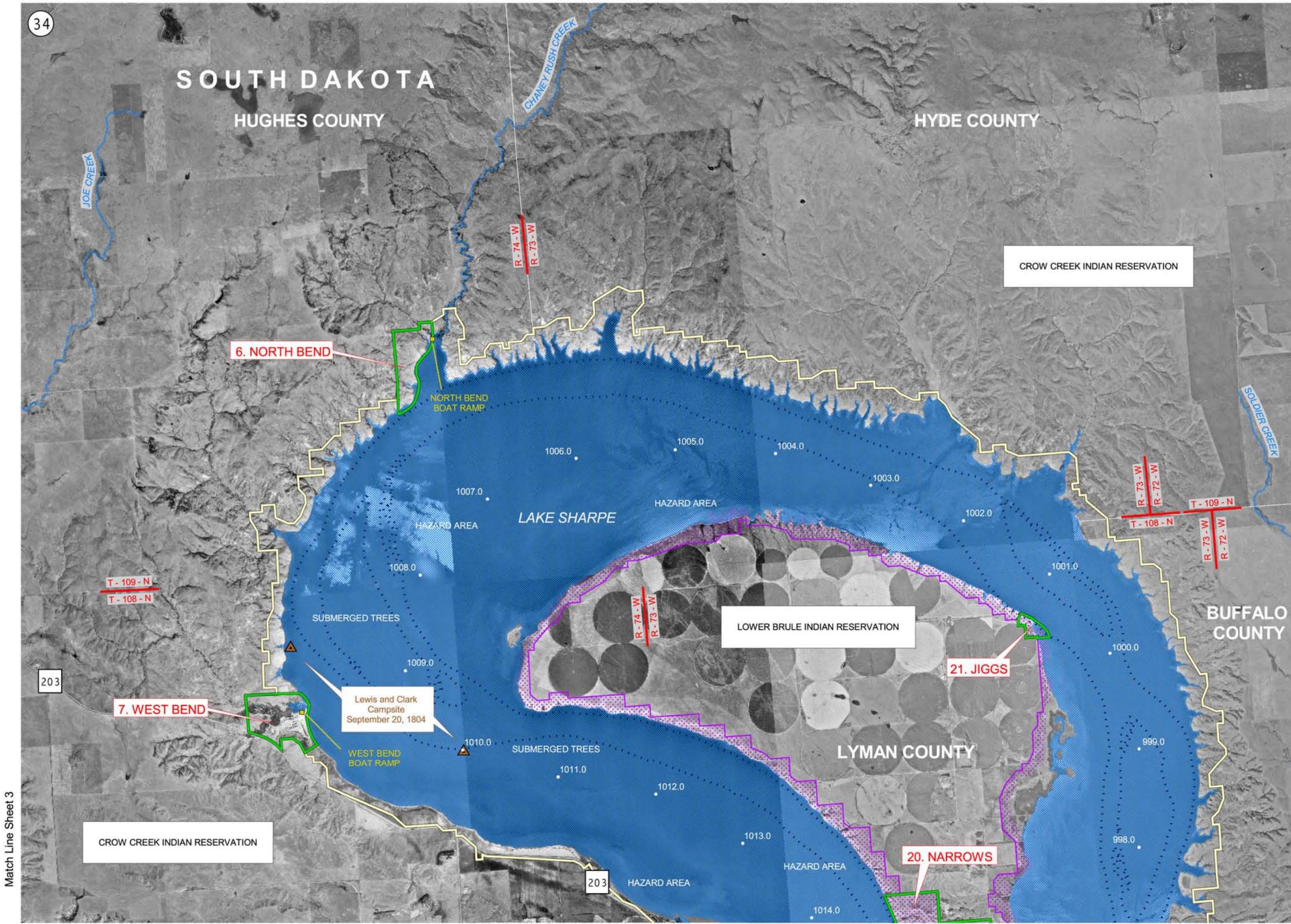
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Lake Sharpe
South Dakota

U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha
Corps of Engineers Omaha, Nebraska
Operations/Regulatory GIS Unit

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Orthophoto Year: 1991 - 1998



Match Line Sheet 3

Match Line Sheet 3

Match Line Sheet 1

Match Line Sheet 4

Match Line Sheet 2

Match Line Sheet 2

Match Line Sheet 4

Match Line Sheet 1



US Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

Joe Creek:
 44° 08' 44" N 99° 47' 42" W

North Iron Nation (a):
 44° 06' 17" N 99° 43' 08" W

South Iron Nation (b):
 44° 05' 56" N 99° 42' 13" W

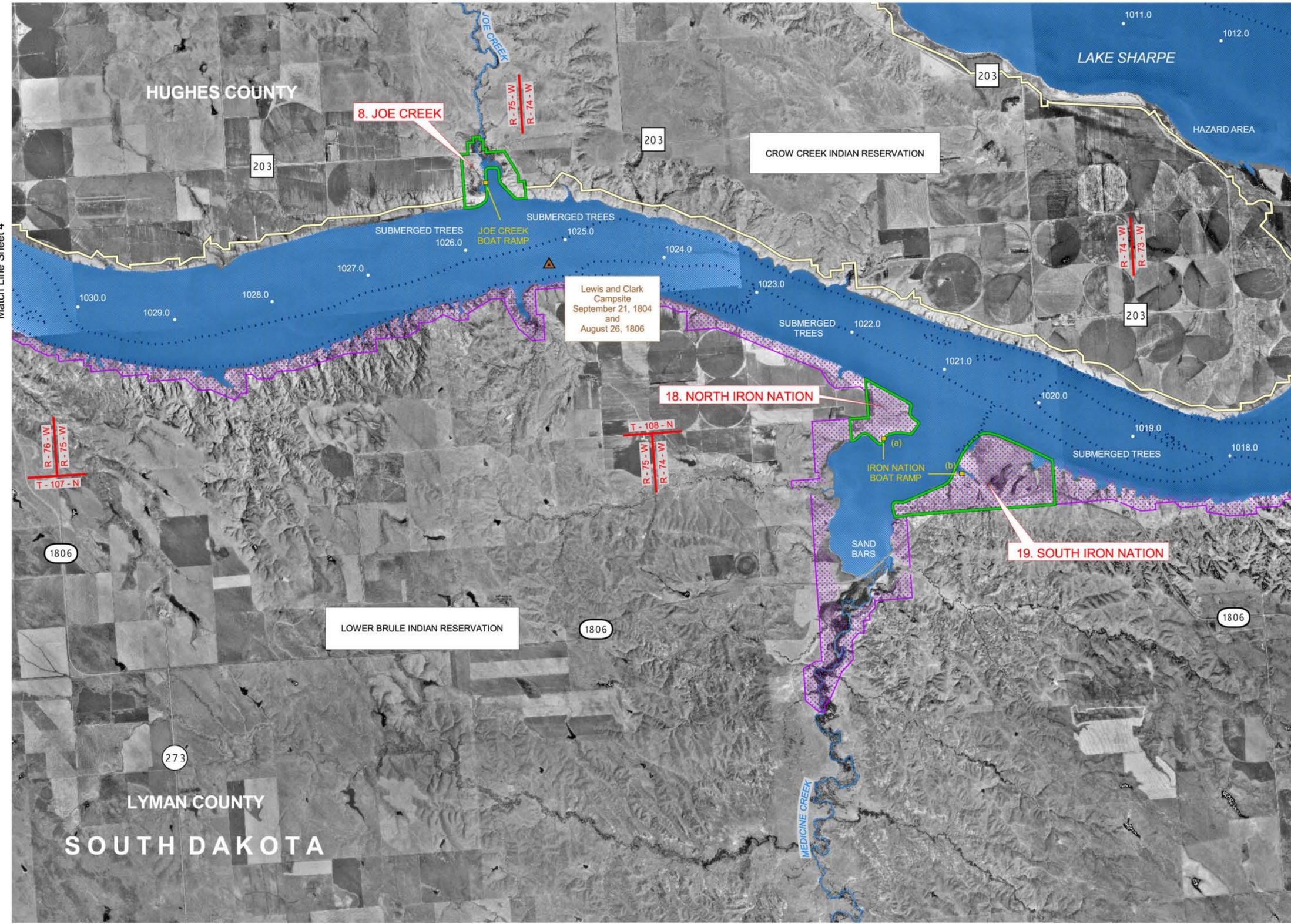
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- ▲ Lewis and Clark Campsite
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- Recreational Boundary
- Reservation Boundary
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- ▨ B.I.A. Administered Lands

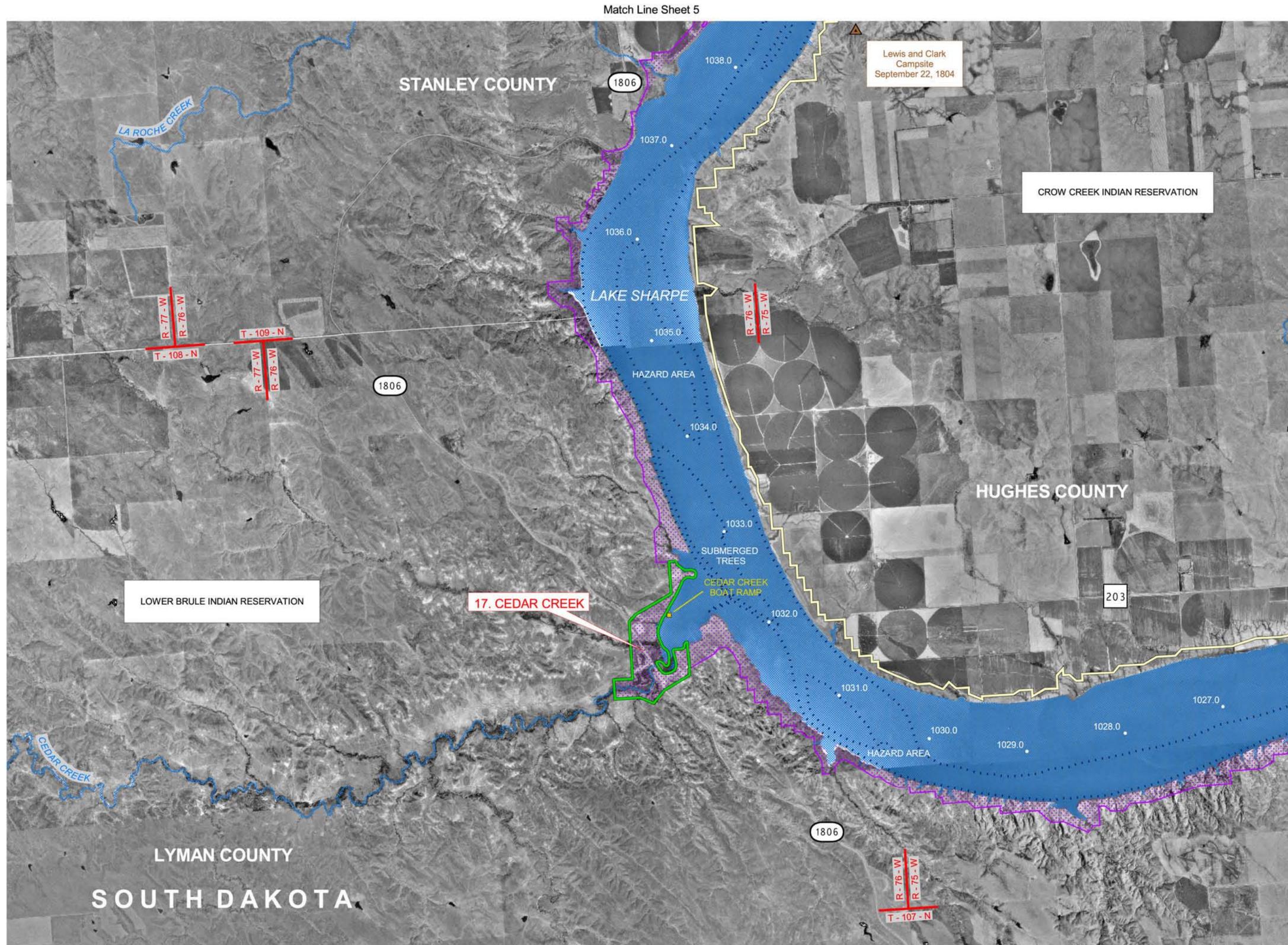


Lake Sharpe
South Dakota

U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha
Corps of Engineers Omaha, Nebraska
Operations/Regulatory GIS Unit

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Orthophoto Year: 1991 - 1998





US Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

Cedar Creek:
44° 09' 07" N 99° 55' 43" W

- River Mile
- Boat Ramp
- ▲ Lewis and Clark Campsite
- River Channel
- U.S. Government Boundary
- Recreational Boundary
- Reservation Boundary
- Township and Range
- ▨ B.I.A. Administered Lands



Lake Sharpe
South Dakota

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Match Line Sheet 3

Match Line Sheet 3

Match Line Sheet 5

Lewis and Clark
Campsite
September 22, 1804

CROW CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION

STANLEY COUNTY

HUGHES COUNTY

LOWER BRULE INDIAN RESERVATION

17. CEDAR CREEK

LYMAN COUNTY
SOUTH DAKOTA

LAKE SHARPE

HAZARD AREA

SUBMERGED TREES

CEDAR CREEK BOAT RAMP

HAZARD AREA

1806

1806

203

1806

1038.0

1037.0

1036.0

1035.0

1034.0

1033.0

1032.0

1031.0

1030.0

1029.0

1028.0

1027.0



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**[®]
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

DeGrey:
44° 16' 37" N 99° 55' 30" W
Fort George:
44° 17' 47" N 100° 02' 06" W

- River Mile
- Boat Ramp
- ▲ Lewis and Clark Campsite
- River Channel
- U.S. Government Boundary
- Recreational Boundary
- Reservation Boundary
- Township and Range
- B.I.A. Administered Lands

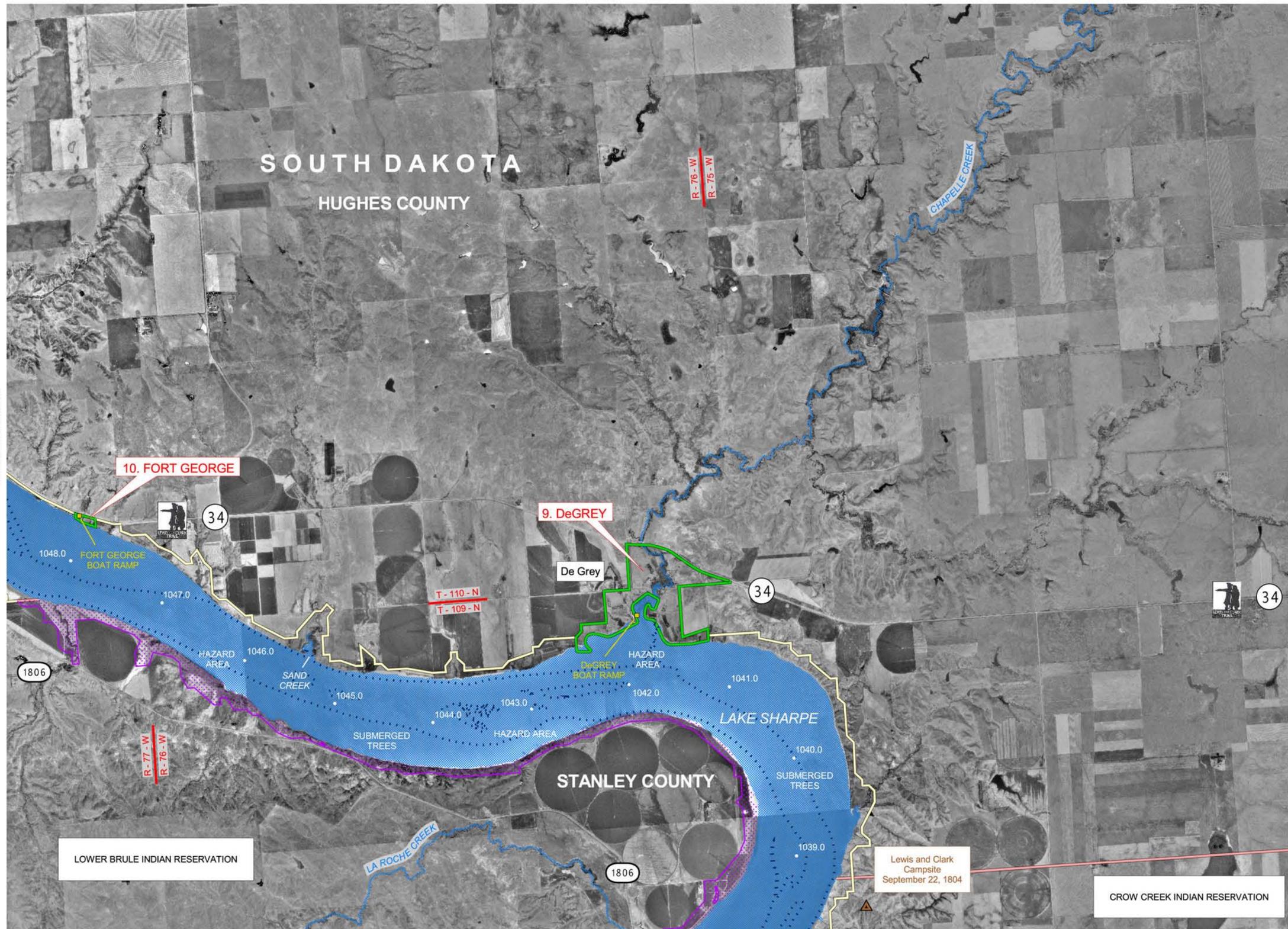


**Lake Sharpe
South Dakota**

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Operations/Regulatory GIS Unit

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2000 0 2000 4000 Feet



Match Line Sheet 6

Match Line Sheet 4



US Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

Antelope Creek:
44° 18' 50" N 100° 10' 19" W
Farm Island:
44° 20' 34" N 100° 15' 56" W

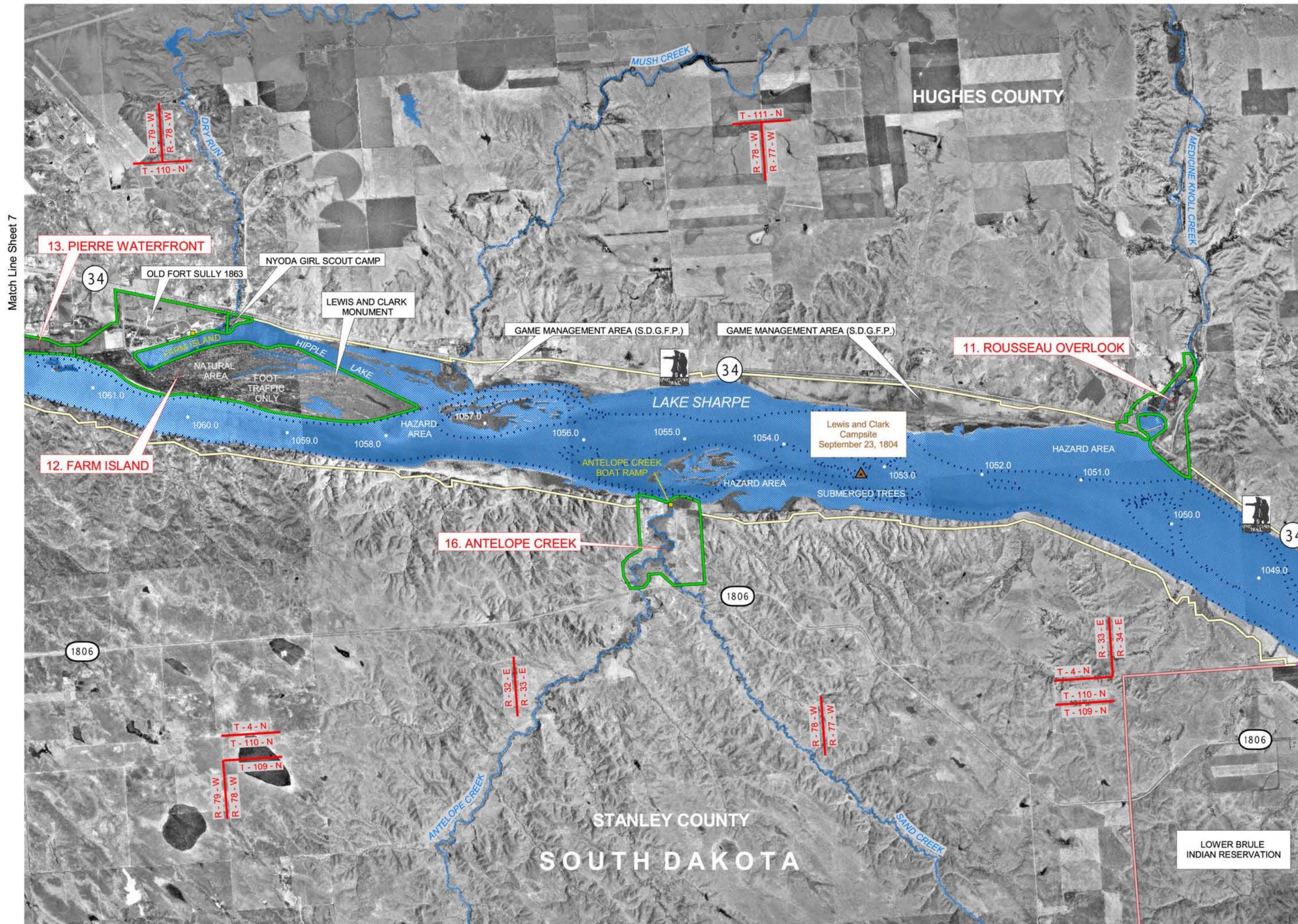
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**Lake Sharpe
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Corps of Engineers Omaha, Nebraska
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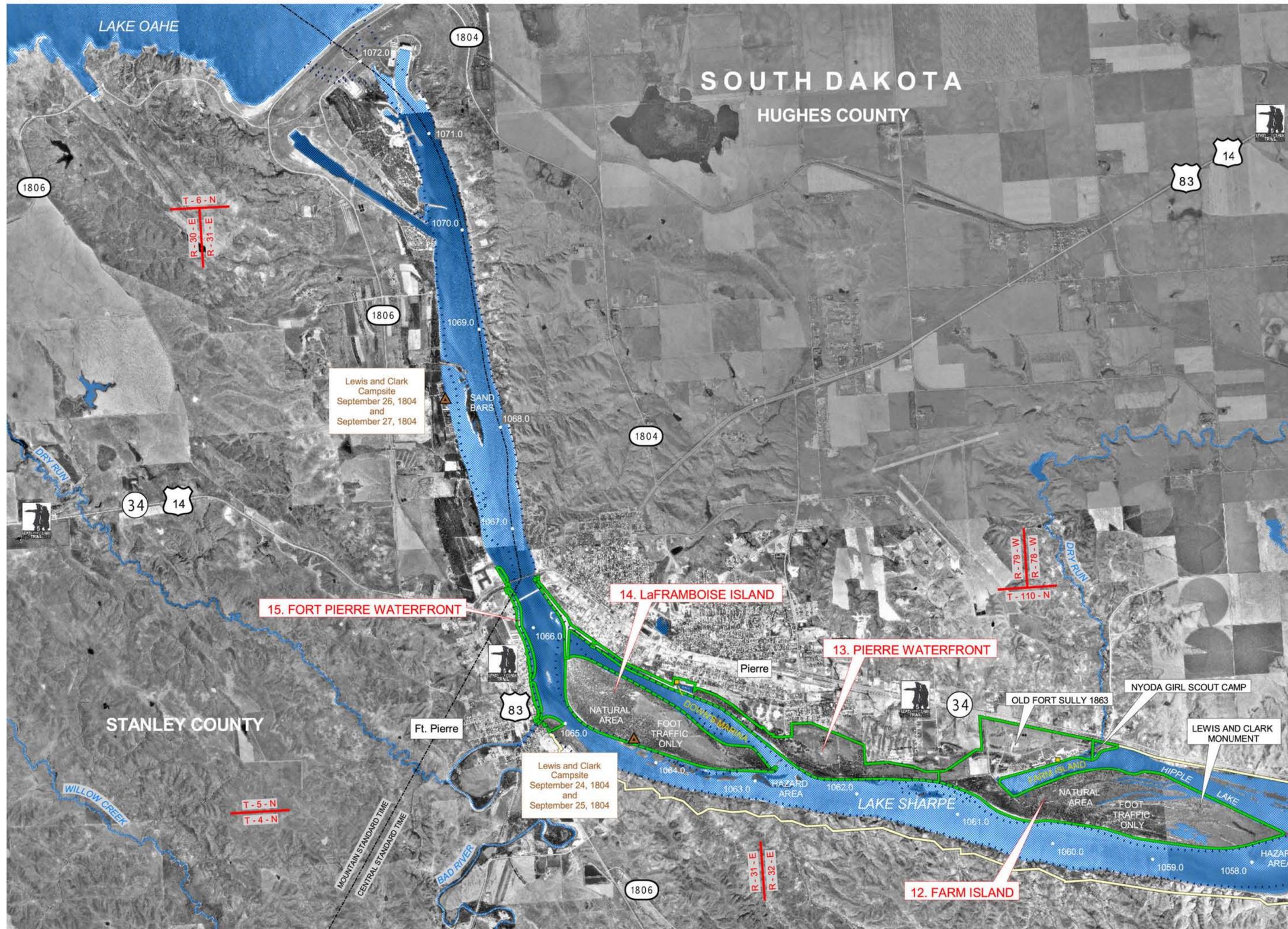


Match Line Sheet 7

Match Line Sheet 5

HUGHES COUNTY
STANLEY COUNTY
SOUTH DAKOTA

LOWER BRULE
INDIAN RESERVATION



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Omaha District

Boat Ramp Coordinates

Down's Marina:
44° 21' 27" N 100° 20' 26" W
Farm Island:
44° 20' 34" N 100° 15' 56" W

- River Mile
- Boat Ramp
- ▲ Lewis and Clark Campsite
- River Channel
- U.S. Government Boundary
- Recreational Boundary
- Reservation Boundary
- Township and Range
- B.I.A. Administered Lands



**Lake Sharpe
South Dakota**

U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha
Corps of Engineers Omaha, Nebraska
Operations/Regulatory GIS Unit

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Match Line Sheet 6

Match Line Sheet 6

The Big Bend Project area is home to a number of threatened and endangered species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. What is the Endangered Species Act and why is it needed? When Congress authorized the Endangered Species Act they declared that species of "fish, wildlife, and plants are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people." The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby endangered species and their ecosystems may be conserved. The intent of the Endangered Species Act is not to just list species as endangered or threatened, but rather, to recover the population of these species to a point where they can be removed from the list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the law for all inland species and certain marine species.

What are endangered species?

The Endangered Species Act states that the Secretary of Interior shall determine species as endangered or threatened based on manmade factors affecting their continued existence.

Endangered: Species listed as endangered are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Threatened: Species listed as threatened are species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

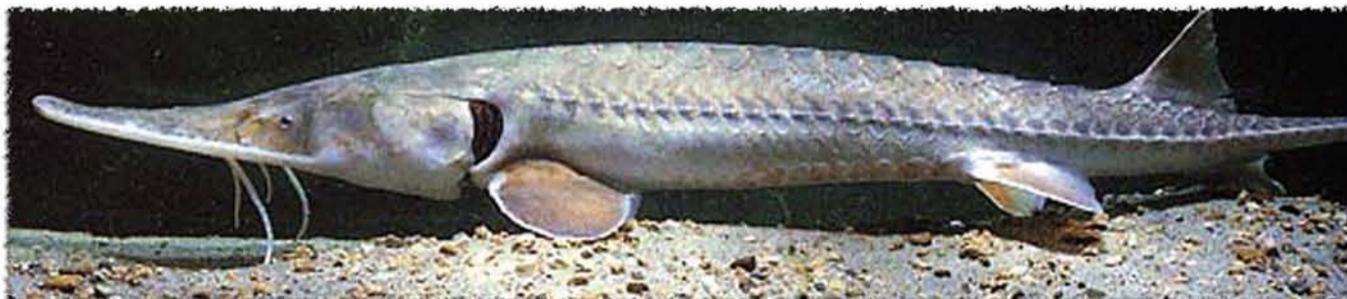
Why save endangered species?

Many forms of plants and animals are used directly by humans. Medicines derived from plants have a commercial value. Scientists continue to find new plants for medicinal purposes. For example, a tree called the Pacific Yew, found in the northwestern United States, is known to have properties that will aid in some cancer treatments.

Since many species of plants and wildlife are more susceptible to changes in the environment, they will often show detrimental effects long before humans. For example, byproducts in the pesticide DDT led to a dramatic decline in the numbers of bald eagles by causing a thinning in their eggshells. DDT increases in concentration (bioaccumulates) as it goes up the food chain. Since bald eagles are at the top of the food chain, they were greatly affected by this pesticide.

All organisms store valuable genetic material that once lost, is gone forever. So, we ask you to recognize them, respect them, and protect their habitat. Please remember that it is unlawful to kill, harm, or harass endangered species.

The following are threatened and endangered species that may be seen in the Big Bend Project area:



(Pallid Sturgeon)

Pallid Sturgeon (Endangered)

The Pallid Sturgeon is a primitive bottom-dwelling fish whose body is covered with bony plates with sharp scutes stretching along its back. This unique fish can be identified by four barbels located at the front of the mouth. Of the four barbels, the outside ones are much longer than the inside barbels. If an angler catches any type of sturgeon, they must immediately release the fish back to the water.



(Bald Eagle)

Bald Eagle (Threatened)

While many bald eagles pass through the area during the spring and fall migrations, these raptors may be seen throughout the year on Lake Sharpe. These majestic birds tend nests and raise young throughout the spring and summer at sites near the lake and river and roost in cottonwoods along the river during the winter. Bald eagles are very sensitive to human presence. Do not approach an active nest as disturbance by humans may cause the eagle to abandon the nest. Disturbing an eagle in the winter will cause it to waste valuable energy reserves by forcing it to fly from the roost. To avoid disturbing eagles, do not get any closer than 300 yards unless in a vehicle or blind.

Photograph Far Left, Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Piping Plover (Threatened)

and

Interior Least Tern (Endangered)

The piping plover and interior least tern are summer residents that utilize sand bars for nesting and raising their young. These small birds are extremely sensitive to the presence of humans and even the smallest disturbance can easily threaten their survival. Therefore, during the nesting and brood-rearing season, some sandbars and islands are posted with signs, which close these areas to humans. By recognizing and avoiding these rare birds and their posted nesting areas, we can improve their chances of survival.



(Piping Plover Nest)



(Piping Plover)



(Interior Least Tern)



(Interior Least Tern Chick and Nest)

The Missouri River and The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration

The watershed for the Missouri River provides drainage for approximately one-sixth of the United States. From the headwaters in Montana to the mouth in Missouri, the "Big Muddy" flows through seven states. Its importance to the American economy and its history is unparalleled.

For over 200 years, the United States Army has had very close ties to the Missouri River. After all, Lewis, Clark and most other explorers on the "Corps of Discovery" were members of the U.S. Army. Over the years, the Army has removed snags, protected banks, constructed a navigation channel, built flood control levees, established fisheries, preserved cultural resources, enhanced recreation, built dams, and developed wildlife habitats. The Army's relationship to the Missouri continues through today as the Corps of Engineers is the primary steward of the water and land along the most famous waterway in America.

Beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2006, the Corps of Engineers will be participating with the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, Native American Tribes and other Federal, State, and local governments in the Bicentennial Commemoration of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Corps of Engineers wants you to enjoy the commemoration and has assembled the following maps to assist in your travels along the Missouri River. Whether traveling by car along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail or by boat on the Missouri River, the Corps of Engineers hopes that you experience some of the same feeling of discovery that Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago.

About the Expedition

The origin of this great American adventures was a product of the visionary intellect of President Thomas Jefferson. By the time Jefferson negotiated the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France, he had already arranged to send a contingent out to explore this new land. Jefferson gave command of the Expedition to the United States Army.

With Jefferson's instructions, Captain Meriwether Lewis began what was destined to be the most significant exploration of the American West. Lewis' journey began in the summer of 1803 when he left Washington, D.C. after completing months of preparation and specialized training in medicine, botany, and navigation. His first stop was Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to obtain the custom designed 55' keelboat. Then, with a limited crew, he proceeded down the Ohio River to present day Louisville, Kentucky, where his partner and co-captain, William Clark, joined him. There the two captains selected the initial enlisted members of the Expedition before proceeding on to their first winter campsite at Camp Wood, Illinois, near St. Louis. They eventually began their journey up the Missouri River and into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory on May 14, 1804. For the next two and a half years, the Expedition traveled the length of the Missouri River, crossed the Rocky and Bitterroot Mountains, and followed the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean and back again.

Along the way, Expedition members kept detailed journals of their activities, collected specimens of discoveries, and charted their progress. They proceeded up against the Missouri's current, rarely making more than 12 miles per day, to the Mandan Villages where they spent the winter of 1804-1805. The next spring they continued on, joined by French trapper Charbonneau and his young Shoshone wife Sacagawea. With her assistance they crossed the mountains and proceeded down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. After spending the winter of 1805-1806 on the coast, they retraced their route, eventually returning to St. Louis in late September of 1806.



The following excerpts, taken from "The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition"; Vol 3; Gary M. Moulton, editor; University of Nebraska Press, correspond directly to the Lewis and Clark campsites labeled on the map sheets within this guide.

Up the Missouri...



Buffalo and Elk on the Upper Missouri
by Karl Bodmer

Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska;
Gift of Enron Art Foundation

September 19th, Wednesday, 1804 (Clark)

"...The boat crew killed 2 Buffalow Swimming the river, handsome Countrey of Plains, I saw many trovs of Buffalow & a Gangue of 30 or 40 Elk and other Scattering Elk &c a find evening..."

September 20th, Thursday, 1804 (Lewis)

"...at the commencement of the big bend observed a clift of black porous rock which resembled Lava tho' on closer examination I believe it to be calcarious and an imperfect species of the French burr- preserved a specimen, it is brownish white, or black or yellowish brown..."

Here Lewis probably views a weathered zone of the Pierre shale. It is unrelated to volcanic activity, that is, lava.

September 21st, Friday, 1804 (Clark)

"... last night or reather this morning at half past one oClock the Sand bar on which we Camped began to give way, which alarmed the Serjt on guard & the noise waked me, I got up and by the light of the moon observed that the Sand was giving away both above and below and would Swallow our Perogues in a few minits, ordered all hands on board and pushed off we had not got to the opposite Shore before pt. of our Camp fel into the river ..."



Sandbar Bivouac by Ron Backer



Plains Titee by Karl Bodmer

September 22nd, Saturday, 1804 (Clark)

"...near the upper part of this Island on its S. Side a Tradeing fort is Situated built of Cedar-by a Mr. Louiselle of St Louis, for the purpose of Tradeing with the Teton Bands of Soues about this Fort I saw numbers of Indians Temporary Lodges, & horse Stables, all of them round and to a point at top..."

Clark may have seen the frameworks of tipis, "temporary" in the sense that they were portable, although the nomadic Sioux lived in them all the time. However, he may have been looking at the remains of some sort of brush shelter over which hides or blankets could be thrown.

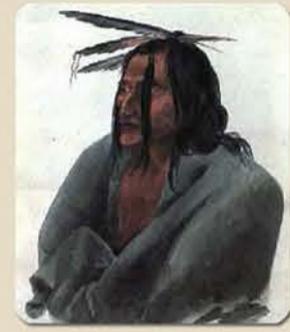
September 23rd, Sunday, 1804 (Clark)

"...Camped on the S. S. in a Wood. Soon after we landed three Soues boys Swam across to us, those boys informed us that a Band of Sieux called the Tetons of 80 Lodges wer Camped near the mouth of the next River, and 60 Lodges more a Short distance above them, they had that day Set the praries on fire to let those Camps Know of our approach- we gave those boys two twists of Tobacco to carry to their Chiefs & Warriors to Smoke, with derections to tell them that we wished to Speak to them tomorrow, at the mouth of the next river..."

Projection
Shore line
Stage of
Distanc

September 24th, Monday, 1804 (Clark)

"...Came too off the Mouth of a Small river, The Teton of the burnt woods is Camped 2 Miles up this river, this river we Call Teton is 70 Yds wide and coms in on the S W Side- I went on Shore and Smoked with a Chief, Called Buffalow Medison, who Came to See us here. The Chief Said he Knew nothing of the horse &c &. I informed them we would [c]all the grand Chiefs in Council tomorrow, all continued on board all night..."



Chief Buffalow Medison

September 25th, Tuesday, 1804 (Clark)

"...all well, raised a Flag Staff & made a oming or Shade on a Sand bar in the mouth of Teton River for the purpose of Speeking with the Indians under, the Boat Crew on board at 70 yards Distance from the bar The 5 Indians which we met last night Continued, about 11 oClock the 1s & 2d Chief Came we gave them Some of our Provisions to eat, they gave us great quantites of meet Some of which was Spoiled we feel much at a loss for the want of an interpeter the one we have can Speek but little. ..."



September 26th, Wednesday, 1804 (Clark)

"... Capt. Lewis & 5 men went on Shore with the Chiefs, who appeared desposed to makeup & be friendly, after Capt. Lewis had been on Shore about 3 hours I came uneasy for fear of Some Deception & sent a Serjent to See him and know his treatment which he reported friendly, & thy were prepareing for a Dance this evening..."

September 27th, Thursday, 1804 (Clark)

"...the chiefs Continued all night with us- This allarm I as well as Captn. Lewis Considered as the Signal of their intentions (which was to Stop our proceeding on our journey and if Possible rob us) we were on our Guard all night..."

The following excerpts are taken from "The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition"; Vol 8; Gary M. Moulton, editor; University of Nebraska Press

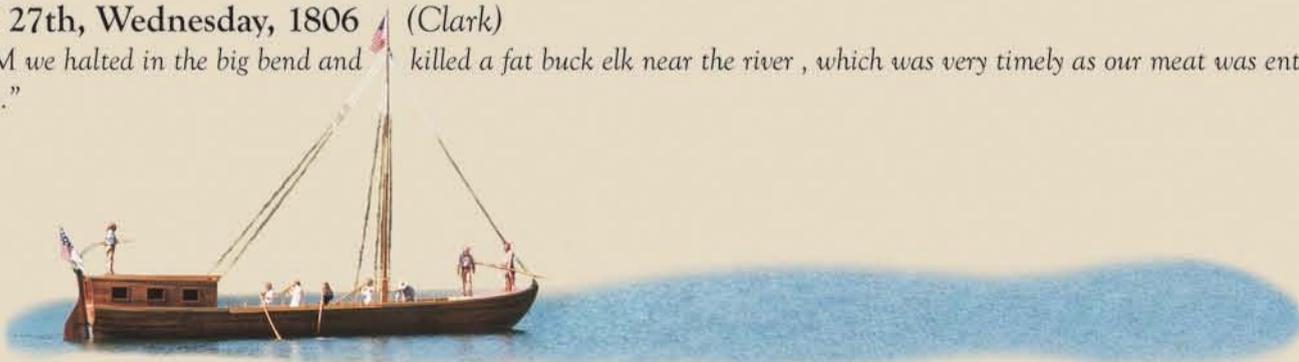
Down the Missouri...

August 26th, Tuesday, 1806 (Clark)

"...we landed a Louisells fort on Cedar Island, this fort is entire and every part appears to be in the Same state it was when we passed it in Sept. 1804..."

August 27th, Wednesday, 1806 (Clark)

"...at 1PM we halted in the big bend and killed a fat buck elk near the river , which was very timely as our meat was entirely exhusted..."



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